

# WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS FOR WEST CENTRAL WISCONSIN COUNTIES

JULY 2002



State of Wisconsin  
Department of Workforce Development

## Summer-time Job Seekers Add to Labor Force Mix

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate declined for the second straight month in the Eau Claire-Chippewa metropolitan area in June. The June unemployment rate of 4.7 percent was down three-tenths of a percentage point from May. A drop in unemployment rate occurred in only two other Wisconsin metro areas in June, LaCrosse and Sheboygan. In spite of the decline the Eau Claire rate remains higher than six of the state's eleven metro areas.

The Wisconsin seasonally adjusted rate rose to 4.9 percent in June from 4.8 percent in May as the national rate increased to 5.7 from 5.5 percent.

The decline in the local unemployment rate in June resulted from a reduction in the number of unemployed and a slight increase in the number of employed residents. The number of total employed in the Eau Claire-Chippewa metro area increased from 80,400 in May to 80,600 in June.

Most of the increase in the number of employed can be attributed to summertime entrepreneurs and self-employed since the number of jobs with area employers declined in June. The greatest job losses occurred in government with the reduction of 890 workers primarily from state payrolls. Manufacturing and retail trade employers also reduced payrolls in June.

Construction employers added roughly 400 jobs while service industry employers added over 220. These increases, however, were outnumbered by the losses from government, manufacturing and retail trade. The end result was 500 fewer jobs in the area in June than in May. On a more positive note, the total number of jobs with area employers this

June is 100 more than one year ago. Area employers currently provide 77,000 jobs for local residents.

The number of jobs in the West Central region (including the metro area) in June totaled 182,600. There was a loss of 300 jobs in the region in June, but if you eliminate the metro area, the rural counties gained 200 jobs. In the region, the counties with state universities are primarily responsible for most of the job reductions.

In Dunn County, government jobs declined by 540 and retail trade lost 110 jobs; while in Pierce County government declined by 500 and retail trade employers lost 10 jobs. The reduction of government payroll coincides with the end of classes and the loss of support jobs like kitchen workers, maintenance crews, office support and work-study students. Many students also work part-time in retail trade, especially in restaurants, and those jobs are vacated when they leave for the summer.

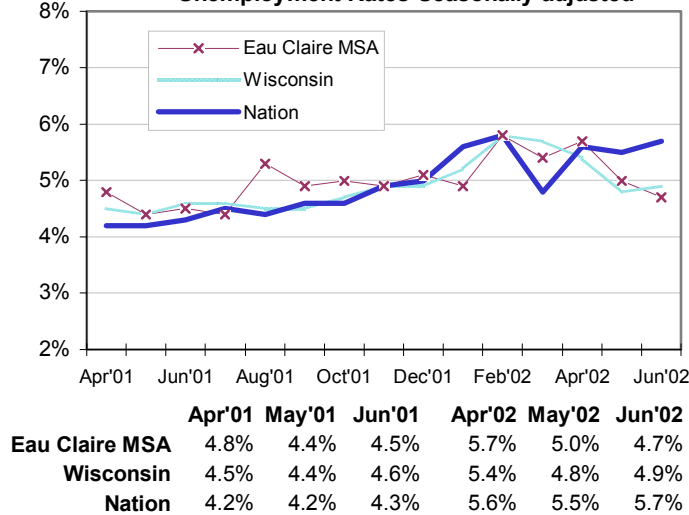
The number of unemployed increased in the rural counties because of job reductions and additional job seekers who enter the labor market seeking summer work. Even though many of those seasonal job seekers do find work there is a lag time for some while they look. During that lag they are included in the number of unemployed.

Because there was an increase in the number

of unemployed, the unemployment rate for West Central Wisconsin rose in June to 5.1 percent. The current rate is higher than the 4.6 percent in May and 4.3 percent from last June. The unemployment rate has increased every June since 1990.

The unadjusted unemployment rate increased in eight of the nine West Central counties as it did in

Unemployment Rates-Seasonally adjusted



61 of the state's 72 counties. Chippewa County was among only eleven counties in the state where the unemployment rate declined in June. In three counties, including Polk with 5.5 percent unemployed, the rate was unchanged.

The unemployment rate increased less than half a percentage point in Clark County to 5.5 percent in June from 5.3 in May; in Barron County to 5.0 from 4.6 percent; and in Dunn, to 3.9 from 3.4 percent. In St. Croix County the rate increased to 6.2 percent in June from 5.5 percent in May, in Pepin the rate in-

creased to 6.1 from 5.1 percent, and in Pierce the rate rose to 4.7 from 3.7 percent.

The increase in the number of unemployed was counter to the decline in the number of residents filing claims for unemployment compensation benefits. Unemployment claims in the Eau Claire-Chippewa metro area declined from 2,743 in mid-May to 2,649 in mid-June. In the West Central non-metro counties claims declined from 3,497 to 3,073. In both areas there were more claims filed this year than one year earlier.

<b>June 2002 Estimates</b>									
<b>Not seasonally adjusted</b>	Wisconsin	EC MSA	Barron	Clark	Dunn	Pepin	Pierce	Polk	St.Croix
<b>Civilian Labor Force*</b>	3,111,200	85,500	24,800	16,300	22,500	3,200	21,900	24,500	36,200
Employed	2,952,500	81,300	23,500	15,400	21,600	3,000	20,900	23,100	34,000
Unemployed	158,800	4,100	1,200	900	900	200	1,000	1,400	2,300
Unemployment rate(%)	5.1%	4.8%	5.0%	5.5%	3.9%	6.1%	4.7%	5.5%	6.2%
<b>Total jobs, all industries**</b>	2,868,000	77,000	22,100	10,300	15,700	2,200	10,900	15,700	28,600
Construction & Mining	135,890	4,360	900	720	720	180	480	840	1,730
Manufacturing	570,330	11,280	6,610	3,150	2,340	150	1,360	4,620	6,830
Transportation & Public Util.	132,550	3,340	690	430	530	110	520	490	1,080
Wholesale Trade	139,330	3,330	610	540	650	260	210	400	710
Retail Trade	511,080	17,530	4,350	1,310	4,040	500	2,420	2,870	6,530
Finance,Ins,Real Estate	153,700	2,910	420	240	440	70	320	480	1,030
Services	802,140	22,990	3,930	1,720	2,830	400	2,230	3,300	6,990
Government	423,020	11,290	4,610	2,170	4,150	540	3,360	2,720	3,710
<b>Change from previous month</b>									
<b>Civilian Labor Force*</b>	72,000	600	400	300	-600	100	500	600	700
Employed	51,200	200	300	200	-700	100	300	500	400
Unemployed	20,800	400	100	0	100	0	200	0	300
Unemployment rate(%)	0.6%	0.4%	0.4%	0.1%	0.5%	1.0%	1.0%	0.0%	0.7%
<b>Total jobs, all industries**</b>	25,800	-500	200	100	-600	0	-400	200	700
Construction & Mining	6,700	400	0	100	100	0	0	0	100
Manufacturing	6,300	-140	120	70	30	0	10	0	150
Transportation & Public Util.	-260	20	-20	-30	0	0	10	10	10
Wholesale Trade	1,230	70	0	0	-10	10	10	10	0
Retail Trade	5,110	-160	40	40	-110	10	-10	20	100
Finance,Ins,Real Estate	1,510	40	10	10	10	0	0	10	30
Services	10,080	220	50	10	-30	10	30	90	330
Government	-4,920	-890	-60	-50	-540	0	-500	50	-80
<b>Change from one year ago</b>									
<b>Civilian Labor Force*</b>	58,500	1,800	900	100	0	100	700	1,300	1,700
Employed	46,400	900	700	300	-100	0	500	1,300	800
Unemployed	12,100	900	100	-200	100	100	200	0	900
Unemployment rate(%)	0.3%	0.9%	0.4%	-1.5%	0.6%	1.6%	0.7%	-0.2%	2.4%
<b>Total jobs, all industries**</b>	2,400	100	100	100	800	0	400	300	1,100
Construction & Mining	-600	600	-100	100	0	0	0	0	200
Manufacturing	-21,400	-860	-60	-30	-10	-10	20	-20	-90
Transportation & Public Util.	-2,660	-50	40	20	10	0	-10	0	-30
Wholesale Trade	130	130	20	0	0	-10	-10	0	40
Retail Trade	3,480	-320	0	10	20	10	90	50	450
Finance,Insurance,Real Estate	2,420	140	-20	0	30	0	10	20	100
Services	14,260	460	110	0	50	10	30	150	340
Government	6,840	-30	130	40	660	-10	290	60	130

\* Includes participants residing in area. \*\* Includes employment with employers located in area. Estimates are NOT seasonally adjusted. Current month estimates are preliminary. Totals may not add due to rounding. Calculations based on unrounded numbers.

**Look for the most current Labor Market Information at: [WWW.DWD.STATE.WI.US/LMI](http://WWW.DWD.STATE.WI.US/LMI)**

Direct questions and comments to: **Beverly Gehrke, Labor Market Analyst**

Hayward Job Center, 15618 Wind Rose Lane, Suite 108, Hayward, Wisconsin 54843

715-634-5289 715-634-6094(FAX) e-mail: [Beverly.Gehrke@dwd.state.wi.us](mailto:Beverly.Gehrke@dwd.state.wi.us)